

Testimony of Alan H. Bowie, Jr. on behalf of Neighborhood Music School – H.B. No. 5037

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

My name is Alan H. Bowie, Jr. and I am a member of the Neighborhood Music School (“NMS” or the “School”) Board of Directors where I serve as Governance Chair. I joined the School’s Board in 2019 to give back to the School that means so much to me and my family. Like many in our community, I have a deep and long-term connection to the School and Music education.

My grandfather, William W. Bowie, was a revered and beloved faculty member. He took personal interest in each of his students, encouraging them to go beyond the study of music. He wanted them to be students of life and to be their best. That approach is true of our instructors. They are life changing mentors, as well as first class music teachers.

My personal connection to NMS began when my family enrolled me as a student. Many of my experiences as a music student helped shape my life, perspective and career. In youth choir, you raised your hand when you made a mistake. That level of accountability – owning up to the moment and fixing it – has followed me. Music education for youth is invaluable as it instills, from an early age, discipline and self-worth.

In college, I studied Economics and Community Development and then went on to law school, continuing in the family tradition of giving back to the community. While in law school, I decided that if he ever came back to live in New Haven, I would join the NMS board. I believe deeply in Noah Bloom’s leadership and the direction he is steering the school. NMS, under Noah’s leadership, is committed to service of and partnership with the community, which is critical in New Haven. I feel that NMS is an invaluable place for students of all ages, aligns with what I believe to be important, and also allows me to remain connected to my family legacy.

I would like to highlight that each of our board meetings discusses first on the agenda how we can deepen our impact in service to the community. Your support is critical to our ability to serve, and we hope that you will continue supporting our school, our programs and our students.

Best regards,  
Alan H. Bowie, Jr.